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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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Record High Percentage of Telephones on Farms

About 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ percent of the farms in the United States had telephones on July 1, 1953 according to preliminary returns from an annual survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is an increase of 2.2 percent over a year earlier and 4.3 percent above the 1950 Census figure. The 2.2 percentage increase was the largest for any one year since the close of World War II.

The percentage of American farms with telephones has increased steadily since 1940 when only 25 percent of the farms had telephone service. However, in the 20 years prior to 1940 the percentage of all farms with telephones had declined rather sharply. About 34 percent of farms had telephones in 1930, as compared with 38.7 percent in 1920.

Practically all States participated in the increase in proportion of farms with telephones during the past year with the Middle Atlantic and Pacific States showing the greatest increases. During the past few years the increase has been fairly consistent - percentage wise - throughout the United States. On July 1 over three-fourths of the farms in New England had telephones which was the largest percentage recorded for any geographic region. Most States in the Middle Atlantic regions as well as Iowa also had nearly or more than three-fourths of the farms with telephones.

The estimates on the percentage of farms with telephones in 1953, as well as in most recent years, were based on reports received each year from over 20,000 farmers throughout the United States. The list of farmers to whom the questionnaire was sent was a cross section, unbiased sample of all farms in the United States.

Percent of Farms with Telephone Service, United States, Selected Years
1920-1953

Year	Percent	Year	Percent
1920 <u>1</u> /	38.7	1949	36.4
1930 <u>1</u> /	34.0	1950 <u>1</u> /	38.2
1940 <u>1</u> /	25.0	1951	38.8
1945 <u>1</u> /	31.8	1952	40.3
1947	33.7	1953	42.5
1948	34.6		

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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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